

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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**Imagery analysis report**

**Evidence of SS-20 Warhead Mating at  
Deployed Bases in the USSR**

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## EVIDENCE OF SS-20 WARHEAD MATING AT DEPLOYED BASES IN THE USSR

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1. [ ] An analysis of SS-20 mobile IRBM bases and their associated facilities in the USSR indicates that there may be a relationship between missile packaging materials and SS-20 warhead mating operations.

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2. [ ] Missile packaging materials have been identified at operational regiments in six of the seven SS-20 divisions. The materials believed to be associated with each missile consist of a 2.0-meter disc (probable canister end cap) and two [ ] half-cylinder probable canister inserts (Figure 1), which are probably used to protect the missile during shipment. When the missile is received at the sliding-roof garage or deployed to the field, the 2.0-meter disc would be taken off, the canister inserts would be removed for the mating of the warhead, and a domed end cap would be positioned on the canister. It is not known whether the original packaging material would be reused if the warhead is removed from the missile.

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3. [ ] Identification of the packaging materials was made during what appeared to be a warhead mating exercise in the operations and support areas of the Mozyr Mobile IRBM Base [ ] [ ] tents were erected at two of the three battalion areas within the operations area (Figure 2). [ ] a probable warhead canister was lying open on the ground in front of a sliding-roof garage and near the tents in one of the battalion areas. On subsequent imagery [ ] the tents and warhead canister had been removed but the packaging materials remained (Figure 3). During this same period, a second possible warhead training exercise was being conducted in the support area.

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4. [ ] an SS-20-related exercise was again observed at Mozyr [ ] and the helicopter pad. Stereoscopic [ ] on those dates revealed that five drive-in revetments, [ ] were occupied by vehicles and that a sixth revetment contained a tent. At least one set of the packaging material had been discarded into a seventh revetment (Figure 4). The presence of the occupied revetments and packaging materials at a field training exercise indicates that the Soviets have the capability to mate the warhead in the field-deployed scenario mentioned above.

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